

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 7, 12-20 and 23-26 were allowed, and claims 21-22 were rejected. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-3, 7, 12-20 and 23-26. By this Reply and Amendment, claim 21 has been amended, and claims 1-3, 7 and 12-26 remain pending in the present application. All claim amendments are fully supported throughout the written description and figures of the specification.

Claims 21-22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Coronado reference, US Patent No.: 6,223,821, or the Plumb et al. reference, US Patent No.: 5,517,854. Independent claim 21 has been amended to clarify aspects of the claim language, and claims 21-22 are believed patentable over the cited references.

The Coronado reference describes an inflation verification system for an inflatable tool. A sensor 14 or other type of information collector is employed within or adjacent an opening that allows fluid to enter the inflatable tool. The sensor may be a pressure sensor disposed adjacent the packer and preprogrammed to include a threshold differential pressure between the annulus and the inflatable tool. When the threshold is met, the sensor provides an electrical signal to a downhole controller 16 which activates a communicator 18. The reference also describes another type of information collector as a fluid displacement device located at an entrance to the inflatable portion of the inflatable tool. The device is able to measure the amount of fluid flowing past. In another embodiment, the sensor 14 may comprise one or more strain gauges. (See column 3, lines 25-58).

The Plumb et al. reference describes a modular sonde conveyed downhole on an electric wireline with a variety of instruments for testing various well related parameters. One of the features of the modular sonde is an inflatable packer module 302, 312 that includes a pressure sensor 344 for detecting packer inflation pressure. However, the modular sonde also includes an orienting module 304 and a stress/rheology module 300 having a probe module 306. (See column 9, lines 17-24). These various other modules comprise a variety of sensors for testing the various

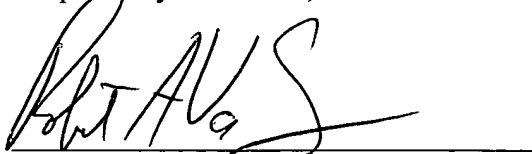
downhole parameters. For example, sensors 316 and 318 measure changes in borehole diameter in one direction. (Column 9, lines 2-3). Additionally, probe module 306 includes a flowline resistivity sensor 328, a flowline pressure sensor 330 and controllable flow valves 332 and 348. (See column 9, lines 37-40).

However, the cited references do not disclose or suggest elements of amended, independent claim 21. By way of specific example, each cited reference fails to disclose or suggest directly measuring a pressure in a setting chamber of a downhole tool combined with "verifying the pressure measured in the setting chamber by sensing the pressure at a spaced measurement location relative to the setting chamber" as recited in amended claim 21.

Claim 22 directly depends from amended, independent claim 21 and is patentable for the reasons provided above with respect to independent claim 21 as well as for the unique subject matter found in claim 22. Accordingly, claims 21-22 are patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. A. Van Someren', written over a horizontal line.

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